(c) The Krishi Vigyan Kendras impart vocational training to the farmers, farm women, rural youths and field level extension functionaries. In addition, KVK also organises demonstrations on important cereals and vegetables crops on the farmers field. It also helps the rural youths in self employment. The expenditure on setting up a KVK for a period of five years is about Rs. 75 lakhs.

(d) So far, ICAR has established 11 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Maharashtra.

National Agricultural Policy

1343. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for delay in evolving and announcing a National Agricultural Policy; and

(b) by when the policy is likely to be worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) The draft Agricultural Policy Resolution is under discussion with the State Governments, Agricultural Universities, other Central Departments and farmers, and will be finalised as early as possible.

Dryland farming

1344. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area of land available in each State and Union Territory for dryland farming;

(b) the area already brought under cultivation through dryland farming Techniques; and

(c) the targets fixed for the same for the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) State and Union Territory-wise area available for dryland farming is given in the enclosed statement, (*see* below)

(b) Watershed development has been adopted as national strategy for Integrated development of dryland farming areas. This approach includes conservation measures and demonstration of appropriate production system. A period of about 5 yearly basis. During VII Five Year Plan, an area of about six lac ha, was developed. yearly basi. During VII Five Year Plan, an area of about six lac ha, was developed.

(c) During VII Five Year Plan, a target area of about 35 lac ha. has been fixed for bringing under Integrated Watershed Development.

Statement

State/Union Territory-wise Rainfed Area

State/Union Territory	Area in lakh hectare
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	67.5
Arunachal Pradesh	1.4
Assam	21.3
Bihar	40.8
Goa	1.3
Gujarat	73.6
Haryana	10.3
Himachal Pradesh	4.9
Jammu & Kashmir	3.9
Karnataka	84.1
Kerala	19.0
Madhya Pradesh	156.4

1	2
Maharashtra	161.4
Orissa	44.5
Punjab	4.4
Rajasthan	126.4
Tamil Nadu	31.7
Tripura	2.3
Uttar Pradesh	70.4
West Bengal	34.2
Others	5.7
All India	965.5

National Research Centre for Palm Oil

1345. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka had offered in early 1991 amenities for setting up of the National Research Centre for Palm Oil and if so, the details thereof indicating the decision taken in the matter in view of urgent need to improve production and availability and stop forex outflow for vegetable oils; and

(b) whether it is a fact that R & D work on improving productivity of oilseeds under CLUSA AND CIDA projects of NDDB had not progressed satisfactorily, loading to pressure on land and forex for imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, The State Government of Karnataka has offered land in Mandya district for establishment of NRC for Oil Palm. ICAR has constituted an expert Committee to identify a possible site. The report of the committee is awaited.

(b) No, Under the NDDB project on Restructing of edible oil, oilseed production and marketing, the productivity of oilseeds has substantially increased in the states under the project.

Procurement price of wheat

1346. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while fixing the revised procurement prices of wheat for the ensuing season, the inflation of 12 per cent over the year and the managerial cost of production and sale were taken into account besides other usual factors; and

(b) if so, to what extent and what weightage was given to such elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) The minimum support price of wheat for the current marketing season has been fixed at Rs. 250 per quintal marking an increase of Rs. 25 per quinal over the price fixed for the previous season. The minimum support price of wheat has been fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries, etc.